

Garden Notes

Woowoolahra



Woowoolahra is a 9-acre property, of which 3 acres is garden. The rest of the property is paddocks, dams and natural scrub.

The garden was started by the original owners in the mid 80s - their hard work provided the basis for the beautiful mature garden you see today. We've been here since 2005 and have loved every minute - it's our peaceful little bit of heaven!

The Name

Woowoolahra is named after Mt Woowoolahra, a large sheep station 81km north of Broken Hill where Allan grew up. Mt Woowoolahra is no longer in the family, but we wanted to keep the name going for new generations to enjoy. The differences between the two properties could not be more stark - for example, cold vs arid climate, 9 vs 44,000 acres, 800 vs 180m elevation.

Food

We're running a cafe serving lunches and drinks from 11 am to 2 pm in the back garden area (10)

All the food is home made and the cafe is 'staffed' by some exceptional friends.

Hot drinks and cakes are available at Lavender Hill.

The Garden

Areas of the garden are described below and numbered on the map overleaf in a suggested 'touring' order.

1. Berry garden - a number of fruit trees, grapevines, bramble berries as well as roses and bulbs we grow for cut flowers.
2. The area surrounding the Kennel has raised beds with maples, weeping cherry and crab apples ornamental plums and a small fish pond.
3. Veggie garden - featuring six wicking beds.
4. Front garden - Large lawned area surrounded by mature trees and plants, with some lovely stone walls, shaded walkways and great views of the Burra valley. Hydrangeas, camellias and a tree ferns enclose the front veranda.
5. Circular garden bed with lots of perennials, bulbs and tubers. The **toilet** (11) is located at the back of this bed-look for the rusty box under the *Lamarque* climbing rose.
6. Water lily lake - a lovely place to sit under the willows and watch the ducks and other water birds, spot turtles or just look at the waterlilies.
7. Rose Arbour - 40m arbour built in 2013 by the two of us. The rose along the whole length is *Nahema*, chosen for form, colour, scent and flowering period.
8. Early stages of a new native garden.
9. Native scrub - this corner of the block has been left in it's natural state.
10. Back garden - A lovely shady sea of green in summer and a riot of colour in Autumn. There are a number of garden beds and a woodland area.

Our challenges

Shade - While our trees are lovely, as they've grown, more and more of the garden is in deep shade. The raised garden bed area adjacent to the BBQ in the back garden used to be lawn. Now it showcases a range of shade loving plants.

Water - one of the 5 dams on the property is set up to water the garden. We supplement this with bore water when necessary. Not much of an issue in last two years as all the dams are full. By contrast, at the end of 2019, the water lily lake was a small puddle and all the water lilies were on the 'bank'.

Critters - One of the lovely things about living rurally is the abundance of wildlife... until Rosellas shred the roses (they were particularly merciless on the arbour last spring), hares and rabbits raze plants to the ground, kangaroos don't care where they bed down; we've had wild pigs helpfully 'tilling' the garden and wombats sampling plants and leaving their cuboid calling cards.

Soil or lack thereof. We build up the soil with compost (bins just inside the entry gate). After they've finished their autumn display all the leaves go into the compost. And yes, there are a lot of them!

Thank you

Thanks so much for visiting - please come and talk to us if you have any concerns, questions or just want to chat.

Allan & Monica

London Bridge Road

Entry gate

Woowoolahra

Burra Road

